(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त पुरस्कार इस समय किसके पास हैं और इसे किसे दिया गया था ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण) : (क) जी नहीं, श्रीमान।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) स्वर्गीय मौलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद को भारत रत्न पुरस्कार मरणोपरान्त प्रदान किया गया था। यह निर्णय लिया गया था कि स्वर्गीय मौलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद की ओर से पुरस्कार प्राप्त करने के लिए उनके निकटतम सम्बंधियों में से उचित व्यक्ति श्री नूरुद्दीन अहमद हैं जो कलकत्ता निवासी हैं तथा स्वर्गीय मौलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद के परिवार के सबसे अधिक आयु के जीवित पुरुष हैं। चूंकि श्री नूरुद्दीन अहमद बहुत अधिक वृद्ध होने के कारण दिनांक 28.3.1992 को हुए अलंकरण समारोह में भाग लेने में असमर्थ थे, अतः पदक, सनद' इत्यादि 18.6.1992 को उनको कलकत्ता में सौंपे गए।

Casual Labour in Ministries/ Departments

*394. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, majority of work is being got done by engaging casual labour;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the period fixed for their regularisation as per the Model Standing Orders of the Ministry and to what extent these are being implemented in each Ministry/Department;

(d) whether it is also a fact that C.P.W.D., Railways and M.C.D. are the main departments, where the workers are not being regularised inspite of their service as casual workers for years together; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Casual Labour in Central Government offices are recruited for work of seasonal, occasional or intermittent character. It is not permissible to engage casual labour for performing duties of regular nature.

(c) The Model Standing Orders States that a casual workman who has completed six months of continuous service in the same establishment or under the same employer should be brought on to the regular strength of the establishment. The Model Standing Orders are applicable only to industrial establishments. In the case of those not covered by the Model Standing Orders, those who have worked for at least 240 days as casual labourers (including broken periods of service) during each of the two years of service shall be eligible to get regularised.

(d) and (e) It is not a fact that casual workers working for years together in CPWD, Railways and M.C.D. are not being regularised. In fact, there has been progressive decline in the number of casual workers in CPWD, Railways and M.C.D. over the years and casual workers are being given the first opportunity for regularisation subject to the availability of vacancies and in terms of Model Standing Orders or O. M. dated 21st March, 1979 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training as may be applicable in the case. The question of action taken or pro-

posed to be taken does not, therefore, arise.

Degradation of environment by South Eastern Coalfield

*395. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the wanton degradation of environment by South Eastern Coalfields in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that open cast and underground mining do not affect the environment adversely in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Coal Mining activity particularly the Opencast certainly have an adverse effect on environment due to degradation of land and air and water pollution etc. According to the procedure laid down by the Government, Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) are required to be formulated as an integral part of the coal projects. These EMPs are scrutinised by an Expert Committee in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and only after formal clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, investment decisions are taken. These EMPs incorporate various abatement measures, viz., control of air and water pollution and land reclamation and afforestation etc. and adequate financial provisions are also being made for such protection measures.

Acording to available information, there is no wanton degradation of *environment* by South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Madhya Pradesh areas. In the course of mining operations, some degradation may be caused, but preventive measures to mitigate the adverse effects have also been initiated in a number of mines. Some of the measures are:-

(i) Environmental impact assesments and preparation of Environment Management Plans (EMPs) for carrying out coal mining in an environmentally compatible manner.

(ii) Abatement measures to control air, water and noise pollution.

(iii) Back filling and biological restoration of degraded/decoaled areas and appropriate solid waste management.

(iv) Monitoring of environmental protective measures through Environmental Cell.

(v) Optimisation of land use.

Selection of SC|ST Candidates for National Defence Academy

*396. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the reservation policy is not being implemented in the National Defence Academy, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities selected for the National Defence Academy during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is no reservation for any caste or community for selection to the NDA Selection is done on merit, subject